

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Murphy Pierce of
Bristol, Virginia.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of James Murphy Pierce; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pierce was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional
who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous
capacities; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in the creation and development of the institution now known
as Northeast State Technical Community College, Mr. Pierce made a significant contribution to
the education and welfare of many Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pierce was born in Welch, West Virginia, to the late Lewis and Pearleen
Pierce; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Welch High School, Mr. Pierce attended Emory
College, graduating in 1940; shortly thereafter, he assumed the position of Assistant Principal at
Pembroke High School in Pembroke, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pierce answered his country's call to service during the Second World
War, enlisting in the United States Navy and serving with valor and dignity in the invasions of
North Africa and Italy; and

WHEREAS, after honorable service abroad, Mr. Pierce was promoted to the rank of
Lieutenant Commander and placed in command at Fort Myers Weapon's Test Center in
Delaware, Maryland, where he remained until his discharge; and

WHEREAS, following his naval service, Jim Pierce founded a construction company in
Delaware, Maryland, but returned to Bristol, in 1951 to join the Charles Lowery Construction and
Real Estate Company as a developing partner; and

WHEREAS, after teaching in the Bristol city schools during the early 1960s, Mr. Pierce assumed the post of Director of the Tri-Cities State Area Vocational Technical School in 1965; and

WHEREAS, he was named President of that institution in 1978, when it became the Tri-Cities State Technical Institution; he retired from the position in 1983; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his prodigious achievements as a sailor, educator, and businessman, Jim Pierce was a thirty-second degree Mason; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pierce was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce is survived by his loving wife, Colleen Pierce, and his son, David; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his daughter-in-law, Carolyn Rutherford, his sister, Mary Sue Bossinger, his grandchildren, Brian Rutherford and Amber Luster, his great-grandchildren, Seth and Gavin, and his nieces and nephews; and

WHEREAS, Jim Pierce leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of James Murphy Pierce, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Pierce.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.